



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
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Governor

KERRY HEALEY
Lieutenant Governor

ROBERT W. GOLLEDGE, Jr.
Secretary

ARLEEN O'DONNELL
Commissioner

October 15, 2006

Dear Public Water Supplier:

This letter is to advise you of the rate structure for the Massachusetts Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment for state fiscal year 2008 (July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008). The Assessment makes up the difference between the cost of administering the Safe Drinking Water Act in Massachusetts and the funds available through federal grant and state appropriation. **This early notice is provided to you so that you can plan for the Assessment in your budget. The bill for FY 2008 will be mailed to you in December 2007.** The FY 2008 bills are based on water use reported by public water systems on the 2005 Annual Statistical Report.

The Assessment for state fiscal year 2008 will remain the same as for the present fiscal year. The rate will be:

- \$8.50 per million gallons for suppliers with master meters;
- \$8.50 per an estimated gallons pumped at non-metered systems serving 900 or more;
- flat rate of \$250 for non-metered systems serving 201 through 899;
- flat rate of \$100 for non-metered systems serving 101 through 200;
- flat rate of \$50 for non-metered systems serving up to 101; and
- minimum bill of \$10.00.

Please remember that the bills for fiscal year 2007 will be mailed to all public water systems in December 2006.

The Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment Advisory Committee is mandated by the legislature to monitor the Assessment Program. The committee holds meetings, which are open to the public, at least quarterly and submits an Annual Report to the Massachusetts Legislature. The report for 2005 is available at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/priorities/priorities.htm#sdwa>. Please contact Kathy Romero of MassDEP's Drinking Water Program at 617-292-5727 or kathleen.romero@state.ma.us if you have any questions or would like to receive information about upcoming committee meetings.

Thanks to all of you, MassDEP's Drinking Water Program has continued to provide better services in many areas. A list of accomplishments for 2005 is provided with this letter.

Sincerely,

Damon Guterman, Acting Program Director
Drinking Water Program

This information is available in alternate format. Call Donald M. Gomes, ADA Coordinator at 617-556-1057. TDD Service - 1-800-298-2207.

MassDEP on the World Wide Web: <http://www.mass.gov/dep>

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MASSDEP ACCOMPLISHMENTS DIRECTLY SUPPORTED BY THE SDWA ASSESSMENT
Highlights Between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2005

- Continued to save public water suppliers hundreds of millions of dollars by maintaining Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Primacy.
- MassDEP reviewed 1,696 waiver applications and issued 260 volatile organic chemical waivers, 485 synthetic organic chemical waivers, and 590 inorganic chemical waivers for the current waiver period (2005-2007).
- Assisted 14 surface water suppliers with developing protection plans and surface water protection ordinances.
- Approved local wellhead protection controls for 56 large groundwater sources.
- Assisted with wellhead protection compliance at 82 public water sources.
- Approved 7 Wellhead Protection Plans.
- Approved final reports for 3 wellhead protection grant projects.
- Distributed TNC manuals and newsletters as requested.
- Maintained a free on-line template for systems to use in complying with Consumer Confidence Reporting.
- Continued to update web pages to improve access by public water systems.
- Developed a bulk upload tool that enables laboratories to submit drinking water quality results to MassDEP on-line.
- Continued to conduct compliance assistance activities for Statistical Reporting, Ground Water Under the Influence, Consumer Confidence Reporting, Cross Connection, and Certified Operator requirements.
- Worked with local, state and federal officials on security issues and training.
- Maintained electronic publishing and access for the quarterly *In the Main* newsletter.
- Published 4 issues of *In the Main*, covering repackaging of treatment chemicals, permit fee revisions, bulk water vendors, changes to MassDEP web page, small system loans, flushing, the impact of farming, cross connection control, the Water Management Act, responding to bacteria detections, theft of water from hydrants, lead in schools, precipitation levels, LT2, operator training reimbursements, daycare evaluation project, storage tank sampling, sub-metering, POE/POU devices, subcontracting of laboratory services, eDEP, lead-free designated faucets, asbestos cement pipe, arsenic rule changes, CCRs, and a special TNC issue covering system maintenance, CCRs, certified operators, metering, compliance, cross connections, sanitary surveys, and other guidance.
- Notified all community water systems of Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) requirements for 2005.
- Mailed out CCR reminder postcards.
- Reviewed 518 CCRs and provided Technical Assistance Reports on them.
- Tracked CCR compliance.
- Provided CCRs for all (940) Transient Non-Community Systems (TNCs).
- Provided materials for statewide Board of Health workshops as requested.
- Participated in Executive Office of Environmental Affairs' Water Budget project, Resource Damages Project, and Water Supply Protection Grant Program.
- Worked with State Geologist and United States Geological Survey on topics of mutual interest.
- Prepared media advisories for statewide media outlets on a variety of public interest activities including Drinking Water Week and the Drought Task Force.
- Issued 39 Drinking Water compliance awards during 2005 Drinking Water Week.
- Contracted for filming and indexing 2004 Statistics Reports and town records.
- Approved 70 new Operator Certification training programs (20 available on-line) for training contact hour credit.
- Registered 31 new systems that were previously unregulated.
- Provided instructors for New England Water Works Association (NEWWA) Bedrock Well Courses.
- Provided instructor for Cross Connection Control Program (CCCP) workshops.
- Provided instructor for 12 NEWWA CCCP Course (Backflow Test and CC Survey).
- Performed 5 CCCP Audits resulting in the issuance of 3 NONs.
- Planned and implemented 3 CCCP Annual Workshops.
- Issued 222 Cross Connection Certificates.
- Provided CCCP technical assistance to 286 individuals/cities/towns.
- Processed 51 BRP WS06 (A-B-C-D) applications.
- Revised policy guidance to protect the waters of the Commonwealth and to better achieve the goal of balancing competing water uses.

MASSDEP ACCOMPLISHMENTS PARTLY OR INDIRECTLY SUPPORTED BY THE SDWA ASSESSMENT
Highlights Between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2005

- Worked to streamline sanitary surveys and comprehensive performance evaluations through piloting a computer tablet to collect survey data.
- Continued to offer free training programs for small system operators through EPA Grant.
- Continued the implementation of the Capacity Development Program, which concentrates on providing financial, managerial and technical assistance to small water suppliers. Performed 168 capacity reviews. Through contracting with the Massachusetts Coalition for Small System Assistance, the following services were provided: 8 group training sessions; 137 site visits; and 15 mentoring sessions.
- Conducted annual inspections at all ten of the public surface water sources that have waivers from filtration.
- Participated in the State Vegetation Management Panel for Mass. Department of Agricultural Resources.
- Participated in NEWWA Source Water Advisory Group.
- Participated in the Multi-Agency Task Force on Schools.
- Participated on the National Drinking Water Advisory Council Small Systems Implementation Working Group.
- Participated on the MassDEP Laboratories Advisory Committee.
- Participated in the Mass. Water Works Association (MWWA) Technical Advisory Committee.
- Participated in the NEWWA Groundwater Advisory Committee.
- Participated in the NEWWA Groundwater Resource Initiative.
- Participated in the N.E. Interstate Groundwater & Underground Injection Control (UIC) Managers meetings.
- Participated on the EPA working groups for Anti-terrorism, System Vulnerability, Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, Disinfection Byproducts Rule, Data Sharing Committee, Ground Water, Public Notification, Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring. Participation on these committees places MA interests in consideration at the national level.
- Participated in establishing guidelines and uniformity in cross connection programs throughout New England. as a member of the NEWWA Board of Certification of Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control.
- Staff served on the NEWWA Drinking Water Operators Certification Committee which provides a forum for discussion of operator certification issues for all of the New England states.
- The annual operator certification report was submitted to EPA and received EPA approval.
- Ongoing efforts to integrate the UIC database with other MassDEP groundwater discharge permit program databases.
- Provided UIC presentations to public water suppliers, plumbing inspectors, boards of health, conservation commissions and other local officials.
- Coordinated with the Massachusetts Plumbing Board regarding cross connection responsibilities of public water systems and requirements of the UIC Program. Commented on relevant Plumbing Board regulations.
- Conducted 751 Underground Injection Control inspections and issued 178 notices of noncompliance (NON). Returned 158 unauthorized Class V wells to compliance and assisted 62 locations into voluntary compliance.
- Provided technical assistance about the UIC Program to MassDEP staff conducting multi-media inspections.
- Submitted draft final UIC Primacy package to EPA and received final comments from EPA.
- The Drinking Water Program issued: 490 Notices of Noncompliance, 26 Unilateral Orders, 26 non-penalty Administrative Consent Orders, 18 Administrative Consent Orders with penalties, and 7 Penalty Assessments.
- Issued 8 Water Management Act Permits and 3 Permit Amendments and completed 35 Five-year Reviews.
- Participated in the Office of State Geologist State Mapping Advisory Committee.
- Provided comments on MassDEP Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup regulations & policy development for drinking water protection.
- Redelineated 31 Zone II areas to include their entire Zone I areas.
- Developed guidance for systems subject to MassDEP Best Effort Requirement for wellhead protection.
- Reviewed technical justification by Licensed Site Professionals (LSP) for three Zone II redelineation requests.
- Provided hydrogeologic expertise to LSP Board to support investigations.
- Conducted preliminary water resources investigations of communities dependent on bedrock wells in I-495 belt.
- Developed a ground water model to begin evaluating the safe yield of the Plymouth-Carver Aquifer.